

**From:** gkoch@tampabay.rr.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I would like to send a short note on my disappointment in the settlement with microsoft. I don't use their products any more and could care less what happens to them as a company. But I still have customers who do still use their operating systems and other products. What I see with every next generation of the operating system is less control by the user.

One of the problems is you no longer can choose which programs you want to run on your computer. They all run by default and there is no way to turn them off without intimate knowledge of the operating system. mainly I'm talking about internet explorer and outlook express. You can install your own browser and email program but internet explorer and outlook are linked to all of the operating system help files and file browser and such so you are forced to use it. It will reset itself as the default browser as well.

Another problem is the "standards" microsoft sets for file types. This includes documents, music and video files, and other types of files. Microsoft proposes these as the standard yet they don't release key information on their format so others can read them easily. I have been using linux with various word processors for 5 years and everytime someone reverse engineers the format of the .doc file, microsoft changes it in the next version of word. With the install base of word at offices, users are forced to also use the latest version of word at home if they take work home with them. They can't use another word processor or even an older version of word.

Finally, I am worried microsoft is trying to take over the internet. I realize it would be hard for them to own it. But they have taken steps to use their power and influence to set standards for the Internet. Standards that would favor their products and exclude others. They took Java and transformed it into J++ which became windows specific. Then invented active-x which is not only windows specific but internet explorer specific. Their web page creation software, front page, produces code which is specific to IE and windows. And lately they have tried to block all browsers except IE from their microsoft.net and msn.net domains. That kept me from downloading security updates to IE for my customers who are on slow connections. I use opera which is a standards compliant browser and I also tried mozilla and netscape which are also standards compliant. IE is the least compliant out of the 4 yet their explanation for doing that was that the other browsers weren't up to standards.

The Proposed Final Judgment settlement does nothing to stop Microsoft in their subtle and not so subtle attempts to force everyone to use their products and theirs alone. As written, the PFJ allows and encourages significant anticompetitive practices to continue. It would hinder competing

products from reaching and surviving in the market place. It would give Microsoft an advantage in the one market where they still do have competition, in the schools. I'm still in favor of splitting them up, anything short of that does nothing to stop them.

One more note. I still have hundreds of unused copies of windows 95 because at one time you could not buy a computer without microsoft windows. Those days will return with this settlement.

Thank you for your time.  
Greg Koch